CONFERENCE ON DISARMAMENT

CD/PV.695
3 February 1995

ENGLISH

FINAL RECORD OF THE SIX HUNDRED AND NINETY-FIFTH PLENARY MEETING

Held at the Palais des Nations, Geneva,
on Friday, 3 February 1995, at 11 a.m.

President: Mr. Alessandro Vattani (Italy)

GE.95-60443 (E)

The PRESIDENT: I declare open the 695th plenary meeting of the Conference.

As agreed yesterday, this meeting will be devoted to the consideration and adoption of the draft Presidential statement covering the agenda and organization of the 1995 session. At the end of the plenary meeting yesterday, the secretariat distributed a text of the draft which emerged from our informal meeting. This text is now before you in document CD/WP.462. I believe that all delegations have now had an opportunity to further discuss the contents of the draft Presidential statement this morning in group meetings, and I hope that we are now in a position to take action on it. Before doing so, however, I wish to place on record my appreciation for the high degree of flexibility and spirit of compromise displayed by all delegations during our consultations yesterday. I would especially like to thank the former President of the Conference, Ambassador Nasseri, for his untiring efforts to reach a favourable solution. This satisfactory outcome will enable us to embark on substantive work without any further delay, and I am thankful to all of you.

Does any delegation wish to take the floor at this stage on the draft Presidential statement? The representative of the Group of 21 has asked for the floor.

Mr. YUMJAV (Mongolia): Mr. President, first of all, on behalf of the G 21 I would like to express our appreciation for your efforts to start smoothly the 1995 CD session.

The Group 21 goes along with the draft Presidential statement on the agenda and organization of work for the 1995 session of the Conference on Disarmament, contained in document CD/WP.462. It is indeed a good start of our work. But a lot of work remains to be done.

The Group 21 attaches utmost importance to the CTBT. On a number of occasions the G 21 has expressed its position to start immediately the substantive work of the NTB at the beginning of the 1995 CD. The G 21 also believes that consultations on re-establishing and establishing appropriate ad hoc committees should be intensified.

As far as the agenda of the CD is concerned, the G 21 continues to give high priority to the nuclear issues. At the same time the Group is in favour of improving the CD's existing agenda. Therefore, I would like to ask you, Mr. President, to appoint a special coordinator on the review of the agenda as soon as possible and to indicate a deadline for the submission of the special coordinator's report to the CD. The G 21 is interested in submitting from its group a candidate for the special coordinator on the review of the agenda, as mentioned in paragraph 1 of your draft statement, and it will communicate to you the name of the candidate in due course.

The PRESIDENT: I have noted attentively what you have just now stated and I certainly will consider not only the candidate that you will suggest, but also the best deadline to get results on such an issue. Is there any

(The President)

other speaker who wishes to take the floor? If not, may I consider that the Conference decides to adopt the draft Presidential statement as contained in CD/WP.462?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: Having adopted the Presidential statement, the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban is, in effect, re-established. May I now, therefore, turn to the appointment of its Chairman? I understand that there is agreement on the appointment of Ambassador Ludwik Dembinski of Poland to this position. May I take it that the Conference agrees to this?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: I should like to take this opportunity to congratulate Ambassador Dembinski of Poland on his appointment and wish him every success in the difficult task ahead of him. Later on, I intend to invite Ambassador Dembinski to outline to the Conference how he intends to proceed in the next few days.

For my part, during the next few days, I intend to conduct intensive consultations in order to identify special coordinators on the review of the agenda and expansion of membership of the Conference. I would welcome any initiative from any delegation to contact me so as to obtain their suggestions, and their views, on these issues. I shall report to you at the earliest opportunity on the outcome of these consultations. I would like to tell you that, naturally, the normal occasion for the regional groups to express their views will be the normal Presidential consultations which will be held next Wednesday afternoon. In the meantime, as agreed during our 1994 session (CD/1281, para. 19), the Conference will continue consideration of its improved and effective functioning at our current session in the same format and under the same chairmanship as last year. I understand that Ambassador Kamal of Pakistan is eager to start his consultations immediately and intends to schedule meetings for that purpose in the very near future.

It goes without saying that our consultations will continue intensively on the possibility of re-establishing as soon as possible the ad hoc committees on prevention of an arms race in outer space, negative security assurances and transparency in armaments, as well as any other ad hoc committees which may be agreed on, in accordance with paragraph 2 of the Presidential statement we have just adopted.

I would also like to turn for a moment to paragraph 3 of the Presidential statement to consider giving a status to Ambassador Shannon to do exactly what is outlined and has been agreed upon in paragraph 3, and name him as a Friend of the Chair, so that he can continue his consultations. This would give him a status in the meantime, but naturally all this is in conformity with the contents of paragraph 3.

I should now like to invite Ambassador Dembinski to take the floor. I am sure he would like to say a few words on his plans for the work of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban.

Mr. DEMBINSKI (Poland): Mr. President, the confidence which you have just placed in me by appointing me as Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban is a great honour for my country and for me personally. I should like to thank the members of my regional group for nominating Poland to this important post. I also express my sincere appreciation to the other groups for their support of my candidacy. As the 1995 session of the Conference on Disarmament begins, I believe we stand a unique chance of effectively and efficiently promoting our common goal of a comprehensive test-ban treaty. We in this Committee shall not be starting our work from scratch but we shall build on the important record of accomplishments of the CTBT rolling text which the Ad Hoc Committee elaborated under the able and dedicated leadership of my distinguished predecessor, Ambassador Marín Bosch, and I hope I shall be able to rely on his sustained support.

As for the plans for the work, it is my intention to convene a meeting of the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban immediately after this plenary in order to present to you a very short outline of the programme for next week.

The PRESIDENT: I think it would be a good idea if at the end of this plenary you could take over in order to start off the Committee on the CTBT, so that we may look at your ideas about the calendar and the work of the experts without further delay.

With respect to the timetable of meetings for next week, apart from our plenary meeting to be held on Thursday, 9 February, the only other activities of the Conference foreseen at his stage are those relating to the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban, and they are contained in the tentative timetable of meetings before you. This timetable has been prepared in consultation with the Chairman of the Ad Hoc Committee on an NTB and is subject to change if and when necessary. On this understanding, may we adopt this timetable of meetings?

It was so decided.

The PRESIDENT: We have completed our business for today. I would like to inform you that with Mr. Vladimir Petrovsky, we are going to meet some members of the press at 12.30 p.m. Naturally, I will take into account the sentiments which have been expressed during our very interesting debate on Tuesday and yesterday which is really to show the determination of all the Conference to work without delay on these very urgent issues that we discussed. Does any other delegation wish to take the floor at this stage? If not, it only remains for me to say that the next plenary meeting of this Conference will certainly take place on Thursday, 9 February in this room at 10 a.m.

The plenary meeting stands adjourned. I now invite Ambassador Dembinski to chair the Ad Hoc Committee on a Nuclear Test Ban.

The meeting rose at 11.45 a.m.